

House Bill 2797

Home Education is Private Education

Parents have the right and responsibility to guide their children's education. This is affirmed by repeated U.S. Supreme Court decisions and Oregon state law.

Home education is private education, not public education. Home education should not be under the authority of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The "No Child Left Behind Act" exempts both private and home education from its provisions.

Home education works, with few home educated students scoring low on standardized tests and many scoring high. At all levels, home educated students significantly out-perform the national norm. This shows that home education works even for students who are struggling.

Regulation does not help home educators. Home educated students' test scores are the same in states with no substantive oversight of home education as in states with high control.

Home Schools in Oregon Need Less State Oversight, Not More

- Myth: State oversight keeps students from **falling through the cracks**.
Answer: Standardized tests are not designed to identify educational neglect. 83% of reports of child abuse and neglect come from sources *outside* of the education system. These sources are still available to identify and report suspected abuse or neglect.
- Argument: 27% of Oregon home educated students score **below average** on standardized tests.
Answer: **50%** are *expected to be* below average on standardized tests. Home educated students are doing twice as well as expected.
- Argument: State-mandated standardized testing for homeschooled students is **not unreasonable**.
Answer: It is if the testing is not accomplishing anything and is actually harming home educated students. There is no systematic evidence that mandatory testing helps home educated students.

Mandatory testing is a misguided attempt to identify low-scoring students, which are assumed to be in danger of educational neglect. The benefits of home education occur no matter what the starting achievement level of the student. Mandatory testing demonstrably hurts many home educated students when parents are forced to misdirect their teaching energies into meeting state requirements rather than concentrating on what is best for the individual student's long-term educational good.
- Argument: Many school dropouts claim to be homeschooling but are really **truants**.
Answer: Over **20%** of Portland Public School high school students were deemed truant last year. The current 4-year high school dropout rate *statewide* is over **18%**. Fewer than 2% of Oregon students claim to be homeschooling.

Truancy is a failure to comply with compulsory attendance laws and reflects a mismatch between what the public education system offers and what the truant students need.
Home education is not truancy.

This information provided by the Oregon Home Education Network and the Oregon Christian Home Education Association Network.

Please support House Bill 2797